

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 16 (canceled).

17. (New) A restraint device for an animal, the device comprising a neck collar for the animal having inter-engagable ends, a surface of the collar having longitudinally spaced apart lead guide means mounted on either side of the longitudinal center of the collar; a lead having a pair of ends, said lead passing through said lead guide means and having stop means at each end to which a leash is attachable; slider means mounted on said lead, located between said lead guide means and arranged to allow a portion of said lead to assume a generally noose-like shape to encompass the nose and mouth region of the animal, wherein said lead comprises securing means at or towards either end thereof, arranged to be secured or securable together, or to a part of said device, once said leash has been removed from said stop means to leave little or none of said lead dangling from said collar.

18. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said lead guide means are arranged as two outer guide means which are engagable with said stop means and two inner guide means

which are located one on each side of said longitudinal center of said collar.

19. (New) A device according to Claim 18, wherein said securing means are securable to said inner guide means.

20. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means are securable to one another.

21. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means are securable to the collar.

22. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said lead is from about 2.5 to 1.5 times longer than said collar.

23. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means comprise spring clips.

24. (New) A device according to Claim 23, wherein said spring clips comprise metal or plastics clips.

25. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means comprise mutually engagable hook-and-eye fasteners.

26. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means comprise fabric mutually engagable hook-and-eye fixings, secured to said ends of said lead.

27. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said securing means are securable together underneath the animals' mouth and nose region.

28. (New) A device according to Claim 17, wherein said slider means is made of a material which does not cause an allergic reaction in the animal to which the device is to be attached.

29. (New) An animal restraint device comprising a collar arranged to be secured about an animal's neck and lead means retained on said collar and having a portion arranged to encompass the animal's muzzle, in use; said lead means having two ends to which a leash is securable, said ends of said lead means being securable together or to said collar when not secured to a leash thereby leaving little or none of said lead means dangling from said collar.

30. (New) A device according to Claim 29, comprising slider means through which said lead means extends to form the portion to encompass the animal's muzzle.

31. (New) A device according to Claim 30, wherein said slider means comprises a pair of friction surfaces against which said lead means bears and which friction surfaces allow the free, or at least substantially unimpeded, passage of said lead means.

32. (New) An animal restraint device comprising a collar arranged to be secured about an animal's neck and lead means retained on said collar and having a portion arranged to encompass the animal's muzzle, in use; said lead means having two ends to which a leash is securable, said ends of said lead means being securable together or to said collar when not secured to a leash and wherein all parts of the device which, in use, are likely to contact the skin or fur of the animal are formed from material or materials which are not known, or, at least, are considered less likely, to cause allergic reactions to the animal.

33. (New) An animal restraint device comprising a collar arranged to be secured about an animal's neck and lead means retained on said collar and having a portion arranged to encompass the animal's muzzle, in use; said lead means having two ends to which a leash is securable, said ends of said lead means being securable together or to the collar, when not secured to a leash, underneath the animal's muzzle.